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REPORT CLASS CONFIDENTIAL CONTROLLED DISSEM

COUNTRY: CUBA/HAITI/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SUBJ: COMMENTS OF ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS ON SUPPORT FOR THE HAITIAN INVASION

DOI: 17-18 AUGUST 63

PADA: UNITED STATES, MIAMI (19 AUGUST 63)

UFG-3438

SOURCE: FOREIGN NATIONAL WITH EXTENSIVE MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING, WHO MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM ROLANDO MASFERRER.

1. ON 17 AUGUST 1963, ROLANDO ARCADIO MASFERRER ROJAS, FORMER STRONGMAN IN CUBA, SAID HE WAS IN MIAMI WITH A GROUP OF 100 MEN PREPARATORY TO INVADING HAITI IN SUPPORT OF GENERAL LEON CANTAVE. HE SAID HE HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH CANTAVE WHEREIN CANTAVE AND MASFERRER'S FORCES ARE TO OCCUPY A HAITIAN SEAPORT. ONCE THIS SEAPORT IS TAKEN BY CANTAVE, MASFERRER AND HIS MEN WILL DISEMBARK AND JOIN FORCES.

2. ON 18 AUGUST MASFERRER MET WITH FORMER CUBAN ADMIRAL JOSE RODRIGUEZ CALDERON AND SANTIAGO ALVAREZ, CHIEF OF COMMANDOS L, A CUBAN EXILE ACTION GROUP. DURING THIS MEETING MASFERRER SAID HE HAS HAD AN

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UNDERSTANDING WITH GENERAL CANTAVE FOR MANY MONTHS, HAVING PROMISED TO AID CANTAVE WITH CUBAN FORCES. IN RETURN, IF CANTAVE WERE SUCCESSFUL, THE NEW HAITIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD GRANT MASFERRER THE USE OF HAITI FROM WHICH TO LAUNCH OPERATIONS AGAINST THE COMMUNIST REGIME OF FIDEL CASTRO RUZ.

3. MASFERRER SAID THE HAITIAN REVOLUTIONAIRES RECEIVED A PROMISE OF AID FROM THE DOMINICAN ARMED FORCES WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF PRESIDENT JUAN BOSCH Y GAVINO. HE EXPLAINED THAT BOSCH HAD ORIGINALLY PROMISED AID TO CANTAVE BUT LATER WITHDREW HIS OFFER, TELLING CANTAVE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD EXERTED PRESSURE AND FORCED HIM TO CANCEL HIS SUPPORT. CANTAVE THEN WENT TO GENERAL VICTOR ELBY VINAS ROMAN AND GENERAL RENERDO UNGRIA OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, WHO GUARANTEED HIM POSITIVE MILITARY AID IF CANTAVE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN PROMOTING A REVOLUTION ON HAITIAN SOIL.

4. MASFERRER TOLD RODRIGUEZ AND ALVAREZ HE HAD TWO IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS. FIRST, HE NEEDS FUSES FOR 100-POUND BOMBS. HE TRIED USING THE FUSES FROM 81-MM MORTAR SHELLS BUT THEY DID NOT FIT. SECONDLY, HE SAID HE MUST ARRANGE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF 100 MEN, WHO ARE ARMED WITH GARAND RIFLES, FROM MIAMI TO A SHIP ON THE HIGH SEAS. HE SAID THE MEN

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SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED AT A FIXED LOCATION TO MEET THIS SHIP ON 17 AUGUST IF POSSIBLE. HE HAS $1,000 TO PAY FOR THIS TRANSPORTATION AND ASKED THE HELP OF ALVAREZ. ALVAREZ EXPLAINED THE PROBLEMS OF GETTING THROUGH THE UNITED STATES NAVAL BLOCKADE OF MIAMI WATERS, BUT SAID HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD.. HE ASKED THAT MASFERRER CALL HIM DURING THE NIGHT OF 18 AUGUST.

5. MASFERRER SAID HE HAS A B-25 PLANE IN FLORIDA, BUT IT CANNOT LEAVE TO BOMB HAITIAN TARGETS UNTIL HE IS ABLE TO GET THE NEEDED BOMB FUSES.

6. MASFERRER SAID ONCE HE ARRIVES IN HAITI HE WILL NEVER RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES. HE INTENDS TO REMAIN IN HAITI AND DEVOTE HIMSELF TO THE ANTI-CASTRO STRUGGLE.

7. MASFERRER DISCLAIMED ANY CONNECTION WITH MANUEL ARTIME BUESA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MOVIMIENTO DE RECUPERACION REVOLUCIONARIO (MRR, MOVEMENT FOR REVOLUTIONARY RECOVERY). HE CONSIDERS ARTIME NOTHING MORE THAN AN EMPLOYEE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

8. FIELD DISSEM: CINCLANT, CINCSO, COMNAVEASTWEST, MIAMI REPS OF STATE, USCG, BORDER PATROL, INS, FBI, AND CUSTOMS.

END OF MESSAGE

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